

The Election Drive Is a Party Test

By L. AMTER.

The Workers (Communist) Party has been carrying on many campaigns. The workers of the country know the activity of the Party in Passaic. They know that the Party members have been active in the miners' strike, in the strike in New Bedford. They know that the Communists have done their full share in raising relief for the miners and textile workers, and in providing for the defense of the arrested workers.

The workers know that the Communist Party is the only force in the country for combatting imperialism. They know that there is no pacifism in the propaganda and organization of the Communist Party, and that the anti-imperialism of the Workers (Communist) Party is not the "anti-imperialism" of the socialist party, of the democratic party and of the numerous pacifists. The workers recognize in the fight of the Communists against American and world imperialism, a mobilization of the workers for militant action to prevent, if possible, another world slaughter.

"Informal" War.

In the struggle against the butchery of Nicaraguan workers and peasants by "brave" American marines and aviators, the socialist party made protest only against the fact that Coolidge had failed formally to declare war on Nicaragua. In the murder of the Chinese workers and peasants by "courageous" American marines, in conjunction with British and Japanese marines, the British Labor Party and its "eminent" leaders, Ramsay MacDonald and J. H. Thomas, proposed not only that British "interests" should be protected, but if protection were to be given at all, then a large army should be sent.

In the fight that has been going on in the United Mine Workers, the socialists have given full support for relief to John L. Lewis. The money they collected for relief went to Lewis to pay the salaries of himself and his hundreds of organizers and other officials—and all their expenses.

Lewis, in a letter to a republican committeeman, declared that he would be satisfied with the nomination of Hoover. 'Who nominated Hoover? It was none other than Andrew Mellon, the open shop scab coal operator of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, one of the first to repudiate the agreement with the United Mine Workers.

Birds of a Feather.

A fine line-up: Mellon, Hoover Lewis, the socialist party.

In the fight that is going on to organize the miners, the textile workers, who is taking the lead? The socialists? The socialists are doing everything in their power to prevent the organization of these unorganized workers. It is the Communists who have formulated the proper policy and members of

the Communist Party are in the front rank battling for organization of these workers.

It is the Sigmans, Hillmans, Zaritskys who now represent and personify the policy and leadership of the socialist party. Today this party is aligned with the capitalists. One has but to look at their platform to discover that in some respects the Wall Street candidate, Smith, is more "progressive" than the "socialist" Norman Thomas. Certainly no capitalist candidate elected to office has been more brazen than the vice presidential candidate of the socialist party, James Maurer, who together with the other socialist members of the City Council of Reading, Pa., on taking office declared that "in case of strikes the employers will be given more protection than ever before."

If it is becoming clear to the workers that the Communists are the only fighters for the working class—on all fronts—then these workers must be induced to show their sentiment in the election campaign. These workers should be shown why it is important both for the Communist Party and for the working class that fighting spokesmen be sent to the legislative and executive office to fight for the workers, to expose the sham and hideousness of the system, to mobilize the workers from the chambers of parliament. But just as the Communists make the workers no promises, but plainly tell the workers that the working class alone can emancipate the workers out of the morass, so too, the elected Communist candidates will only be able to sound the call, but the workers in their organizations, in the shops, through resolutions, demonstrations, through strikes, will build the movement that will put terror into the hearts of the capitalists.

A Test.

This election campaign therefore will be a test for the Communist Party. Have the members of the Party freed themselves completely from the sectarian policy of "boycotting the elections," which once was advocated by our Party? (Not that under certain conditions the Party may not again call for a boycott of the elections.) Do the members of the Party realize the importance of engaging in this campaign in which millions of workers are interested and will vote, thereby binding themselves once more to the capitalists?

There are several reasons why our Party members must throw themselves with full energy and enthusiasm into the election campaign:

1. Because the workers and farmers still have faith in elections and expect relief from their troubles through the capitalist parties.

2. Because too many workers follow us on the industrial field, who

do not regard us as a political party.

3. Because the more states in which we get on the ticket, the more significant will our campaign be—not a mere propaganda campaign—but one in which many workers will be able to vote for our Party, who would otherwise be forced to vote for the other parties.

4. Because, until the Communists establish themselves as a political party nationally, we will not have the political standing in the eyes of the American workers that the Party deserves.

Tasks Ahead.

The election campaign will be a real test for the Party. It will demonstrate whether we ourselves comprehend the importance of parliamentarism (and let no comrade underestimate its value, particularly in a backward country like the United States, where the workers as a whole, have only the faintest notion of the workings of "their" government, and have great faith in capitalist "democracy").

It will also be a test of the Party in that it will show the extent to which we have been able to direct the attention of the workers to the questions of government. The overthrow of the system and of the capitalist government is the aim of the Communist Party. How many American workers have lost all faith in the American form of government? Many who are merely disgruntled, but do not understand the fight that will be necessary—on all fronts—till that government is no more.

We know that tens of thousands of workers support the Party and would follow and vote for the Party, but they are not citizens. But it is the duty of every Party member to bring to the polls every last worker citizen.

Get Out Communist Vote.

And last of all, every Party member who is a citizen must not fail to vote. This is self-evident, and yet many Party members, believing that the elections are not worth while (sectarians, they are, suffering from Left Sickness), and in the further belief that Communists cannot be elected, fail to register and vote. This is not only a neglect of Party duty, but a serious hindrance to our Party.

It is not impossible for state and county candidates of the Communist Party to be elected this year! It is totally within the range of possibility—but only if every Party member, every sympathizer, every militant worker gets into the harness and helps the Party in this campaign. With the proper energy, organization and enthusiasm, the Workers (Communist) Party can become a real factor in the political life of the United States, holding not in our eyes alone, but in the eyes of the American workers and farmers, the uncontested and incontestable position of leader of the American workers and farmers.